Ltr 11/22/70

Berrigan Dispute

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Two persons who identify themselves as members of the East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lives say the Revs. Daniel and Philip Berrigan do not belong to the group, as charged by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Hoover told a Senate subcommittee the group had plotted to blow up underground power lines in the nation's capital and to kidnap a high government official.

Hoover named the Berrigans, Roman Catholic priests now serving prison sentences in Connecticut, as the principal leaders of the conspiracy.

The Rev. Richard Bidwell, also a Catholic priest, and Theodore Glick, on trial in connection with the ransacking of the Federal Building in Rochester, said they were among the 11 members of the group and the Berrigans do not belong to it.

From staff reports and news dispatches